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## Seventh Chamber DRAMA

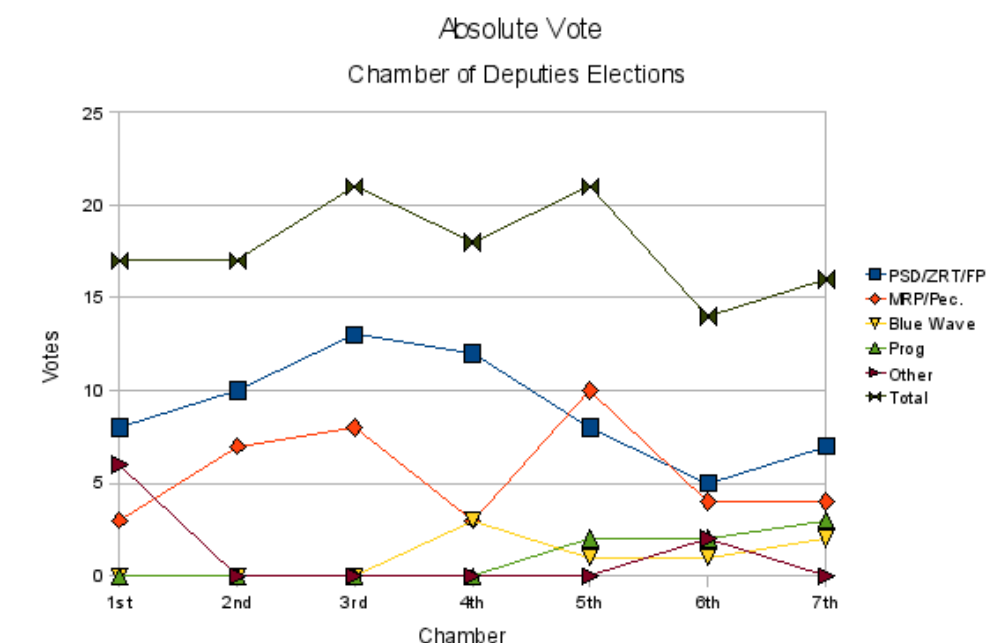
The Seventh Chamber of Deputies election, predicted in some quarters to be a "boring farce", has actually ended up producing a result that NO-ONE was predicting. Commentators differ over whether Gjermund Higrâff's equal-poll-topping performance was more of a surprise than the defeat of Blue Wave incumbent deputy Gôdafrieu Valcâdac'h or not, but either way the Seventh Chamber has been born in a confidence-inspiring wave of surprise and enthusiasm.

What have we learned?

TALOSSA IS BACK!: Turnout was up slightly in real terms and up massively in percentage terms. After the inactive citizens were "Weeded" in the 2007 Census, those left are those who actually care about the future of the Republic, even if that doesn't extend to doing more than voting at the moment.

CAMPAIGNING ON WITT DOESN'T WORK: The only candidate who even tried to campaign briefly - Daviu Rôibeardêt - came last in the first preference votes, although still managing to snatch the last seat in an absolute cliffhanger tiebreaker. Gjermund Higrâff - a candidate who not only didn't campaign, but was barely seen on Wittenberg for months before the campaign - came first-equal.

NAME RECOGNITION MATTERS: Many candidates forget that "inactive Talossans" (who turned out in cheerily high numbers this time around) are an important constituency, and they're not going to vote for people they don't know or even haven't heard of. In future, emails and other "direct marketing" manoeuvres may be necessary for candidates who want to make sure they



The history of all Chamber of Deputies elections

reach the voting electorate.

PARTIES MATTER: Even under STV. The ZRT won enough 2.6 quotas worth of votes, but came away with three seats due to iron loyalty among their own voters - all ZRT surplus votes went to other ZRT candidates. They also won a surprisingly high portion of the Peculiarist and Progressive surplus - probably due to the fact that the other option was the Blue Wave (see below).

THE KINGDOM IS AN ELECTORAL TURNOFF: In hindsight, the defeat of the Blue Wave does not represent a huge shift in popular opinion. In the last election also, Gôdafrieu Valcâdac'h had to battle for the last seat with a less popular ZRT candidate, although that time he had a nailbiting win instead of a defeat. Even the Blue Wave founder-leader realises that pushing for "unity now" with the intolerant, pompous Royalist

regime is a lonely vigil at this point in history. Although apparently one other Republican likes the idea.

OUR PREDICTION: QI supports the ZRT and we think that Txec dal Mar would be an excellent choice as Seneschal of this Republic. However, we must grudgingly admit that Eiric Bôrnatfiglheu is favorite to become Seneschal for the second time (equalling the record of the candidate who preceded him and then replaced him, D. Crovâ). We recommend a Peculiarist/ZRT government - especially since Eric endorsed the ZRT platform - which will make promoting cultural activities the centrepiece of Government policy. We look forward to Txec Ereufiglheu leading the Progressives as the most important Opposition figure.

Beneveschti àl novèu, mighlôriçat QI!

# GV 4 Prez?!

If life hands you lemons, make lemonade. If the voters hand you a Chamber of Deputies defeat, run for President.

With President Anglatzarà looking to be the first President of the Talossan Republic ever to gain a second consecutive term, and Dieter Vercárià making noises about becoming Talossa's Grover Cleveland and winning a second non-consecutive term, the entry of Gödafrieu Valcádac'h into the race (revealed in an inferior rival paper) makes things very interesting at least. It was already looking to be a close race between the genial and well-liked Peculiarist and Defencist candidates - now it could be that Blue Wave preferences might decide which of them takes their seat in the Mitchell Building. (It is not considered credible that Valcádac'h will win himself.)

Which way would Blue Wave lower prefs go? At a pinch, we'd say Anglatzarà. The Defencists, although having noticeably cooled on



Gödafrieu Valcádac'h: He gets knocked down. But he gets up again. You're never going to keep him down.

the whole idea of Talossan unity over the last year, did sponsor the Schiva Doctrine, the law which at least enshrines unity as a long-term aspiration. Peculiarists have historically had absolutely no interest in rapprochement with the renegade Northern provinces and have been hard-core small-r republicans.

The other question is - which way will the increasingly strong UTP voting bloc go in this election? Whatever the case, a contested presidential will bring all the fun of the fair to the Republic.

## QI tent adüc del Ladîntsch!

El Qator Itrîns relenc'hat tîscha 'n colüm Ladîntsch dîn cadascû ißûta, d'osprei sieu redactêir Miestrâ Schivâ.

"Non téu aßéi del tîmp pèr scriuarè 'n papiereu longeu cadascû mes, come dîn el QI vell", a zîa. "Mâs pût promisar qualse'cosâ emâ, regulârmînt."

QI ûçarha "Ladîntsch 2.0", el glhep come scriut és parlat avînt la Revoluziun. "Las reformâs glhepeascâs



La Grischûn, drapeu dels Ladîntschen

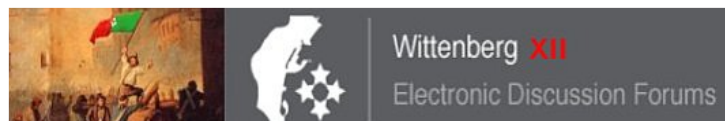
regipätsistâns non sînt ufiçiâs dîn la Repûblicâ, avînt qê l'icastolâ zecidarha ça, és aici sî parla adüc la Talossân Repûblicân", zîa Schivâ.

# Witt Switch Goes Without A Hitch

The seven-year reign of the Wittenberg X software came to a long overdue end over the weekend, as the people's decision to move to Wittenberg XII ([www.talossaweb.org](http://www.talossaweb.org)) came into action. (Wittenberg XI is the software used by the renegade Royalist regime.)

Talossans had voted with their ballots by a margin of 12-1 to endorse the move - they voted with their feet in an equal stampede. Scotching fears of confusion and drama, the move went down as smooth as a helping glass of Talossan cider.

The new board offers avatars, viewing of a whole thread on the one screen, post editing, and all the nifty things that you'd expect from a webforum in this day and age. Wittenberg X was once the centrepiece of a truly expressive Talossan Database system designed by Republican hero M-P Furxhéir, but after years of neglect and lack of maintenance it had begun to look kind of like East Berlin without the bad-ass tank parades.



## Paper Wars: A New Hope?

Talossa's history has always been driven by a rambunctious and entertaining press. The original "paper wars" happened in the late 80's between King Robert's Stôtanneu and Iân Metáirâ's Talossan National News. Will the Republic end up with a similarly entertaining stoush?

Inxheneu Crovâ, twice Seneschâl of the Republic, is pretty much summed up as "Anakin Skywalker to Miestrâ Schivâ's Obi-Wan" - a former protégé turned bitter opponent. However, before he started his political career, he founded a blog-based newssource named Liberançeu ([www.liberanceu.info](http://www.liberanceu.info)).

With his retirement from the Chamber of Deputies, he has returned to his first love of journalism - coincidentally with the relaunch of this very paper, Qator Itrîns, in its new format.



QI editor Schivâ was heard to admit grudgingly that the Election Special issue of Liberançeu was "pretty damn impressive" and QI would have to "pull finger" to remain relevant. But to suggestions that Crovâ, once the pupil, was now the master, Schivâ retorted: "You're only a master of Evil, Dermot!"

### QUOTAZIUN

"You can't have a tabloid without someone's 'secret pain', someone else's 'tears' or 'grief' or 'anger', or 'the pictures you've been waiting to see' of a wedding, a baby or an affair!" - lensâ Ovêir

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